

JAY OBERNOLTE
EIGHTH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY**
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE:
1029 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-5861

DISTRICT OFFICE:
9700 SEVENTH AVE., SUITE 201
HESPERIA, CA 92345
TELEPHONE: (760) 247-1815

E-MAIL VIA WEBSITE:
<http://obernolte.house.gov>

April 28, 2022

Chair Rosa DeLauro
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Kay Granger
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Replenish Big Bear project in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency, located at 121 Palomino Drive, Big Bear, California 92314.

The funding would be used to protect Big Bear Valley (Valley) and the Santa Ana Watershed from the impacts of drought and variable precipitation. Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency (BBARWA), Big Bear City Community Services District, City of Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power, Big Bear Municipal Water District, and the Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency have partnered to develop Replenish Big Bear, a recycled water project that will recover a local water resource currently discharged outside of the watershed. Replenish Big Bear will secure a reliable and sustainable local water supply, protect the local environment, and strengthen the tourism industry that drives the recreation-based economy for a small-disadvantaged community at the top of the Santa Ana River watershed in the San Bernardino National Forest. BBARWA is the lead agency and is requesting funding to support the planning, design, permitting and construction of Replenish Big Bear.

Currently, all wastewater generated within Big Bear Valley is treated to secondary standards and disposed of outside the watershed. Replenish Big Bear will recover this lost resource by purifying the water using advanced treatment processes, creating a new drought-resistant source of water for beneficial use in the community. Specifically, Replenish Big Bear includes construction of advanced treatment facility upgrades at the existing BBARWA wastewater treatment plant, more than 7 miles of pipeline for project water and brine, three pump stations, a groundwater recharge facility and monitoring wells.

The project is currently in the preliminary design and permitting phase. Anticipated work for the upcoming fiscal year is the preparation of the Environmental Documentation, completion of the pilot study and initiation of final design. This Community Project Funding request is critical for the project to move into implementation and federal funding will enable the project team to

leverage existing participating agency contributions and State funding to implement Replenish Big Bear.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Obernolte", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress